

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 3-5, 13, 15, 17-19, 27, 29, 31-33, 35, 41, 43, 45-47 and 55 have been amended. Claims 2, 16, 30 and 44 are canceled herein. Claim 60 was previously canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-15, 17-29, 31-43 and 45-59 are pending.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 35 was objected to for depending from itself. Claim 35 has been amended to depend from independent claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants request that the claim objection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 7-13, 15, 21-27, 29, 36, 43, 49, 54 and 57-59 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,999,721 issued to Ollis, et al. (*Ollis*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,092,671 issued to Lunsford, et al. (*Lunsford*). The independent claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 7-13, 15, 21-27, 29, 36, 43, 49, 54 and 57-59 are now in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2-6, 14, 16-20, 28, 30-34, 37-42, 44-48, 50-53, 55 and 56 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable.

Claims 2, 16, 30 and 44 are canceled. Allowable subject matter from these claims has been incorporated into the independent claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 3-6, 14, 17-20, 28, 31-34, 37-42, 45-48, 50-53, 55 and 56 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1, 3-15, 17-29, 31-43 and 45-59 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 12, 2007

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